

2 Kings 17

Verses 1 - 6

In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* for nine years. ² He did evil in the sight of the Lord, only not as the kings of Israel who preceded him. ³ Shalmaneser the king of Assyria marched against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute. ⁴ But the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea, who had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and had *then* brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year; so the king of Assyria arrested him and confined him in prison. ⁵ Then the king of Assyria invaded the entire land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. ⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and led *the people of Israel* into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, *on* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* for nine years.

See chart 1705

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jehu	841	814	28	
11	Jehoahaz	814	798	17	
12	Jehoash (aka Joash)	798	782	16	
13	Jeroboam II	793/782	753	41	11 years
14	Zechariah	753	752	6 months	
15	Shallum	752	752	1 month	
16	Menahem	752	742	10	
17	Pekahiah	742	740	2	
18	Pekah	752	732	20	
19	Hoshea	732	722	9	

Hoshea reigned until Samaria was taken in 722 BC.

³ Shalmaneser the king of Assyria marched against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute.

See chart 1710

King	Reign
Shalmaneser III	858-824 BC
Shamshiadad V	823-811 BC
Adadnirari III	810-783 BC
Shalmaneser IV	782-773 BC
Ashurdan III	772-755 BC
Ashurnirari V	754-745 BC
Tiglath-pileser III	744-727 BC
Shalmaneser V	727-722 BC
Sargon II	722-705 BC
Sennacherib	705-681 BC

⁴ But the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea, who had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and had *then* brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year; so the king of Assyria arrested him and confined him in prison. ⁵ Then the king of Assyria invaded the entire land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years.

Samaria was a powerful stronghold but when a city is cut off such that no food supplies can enter it becomes an overwhelming crisis.

See Video 1715 8.45 Samaria

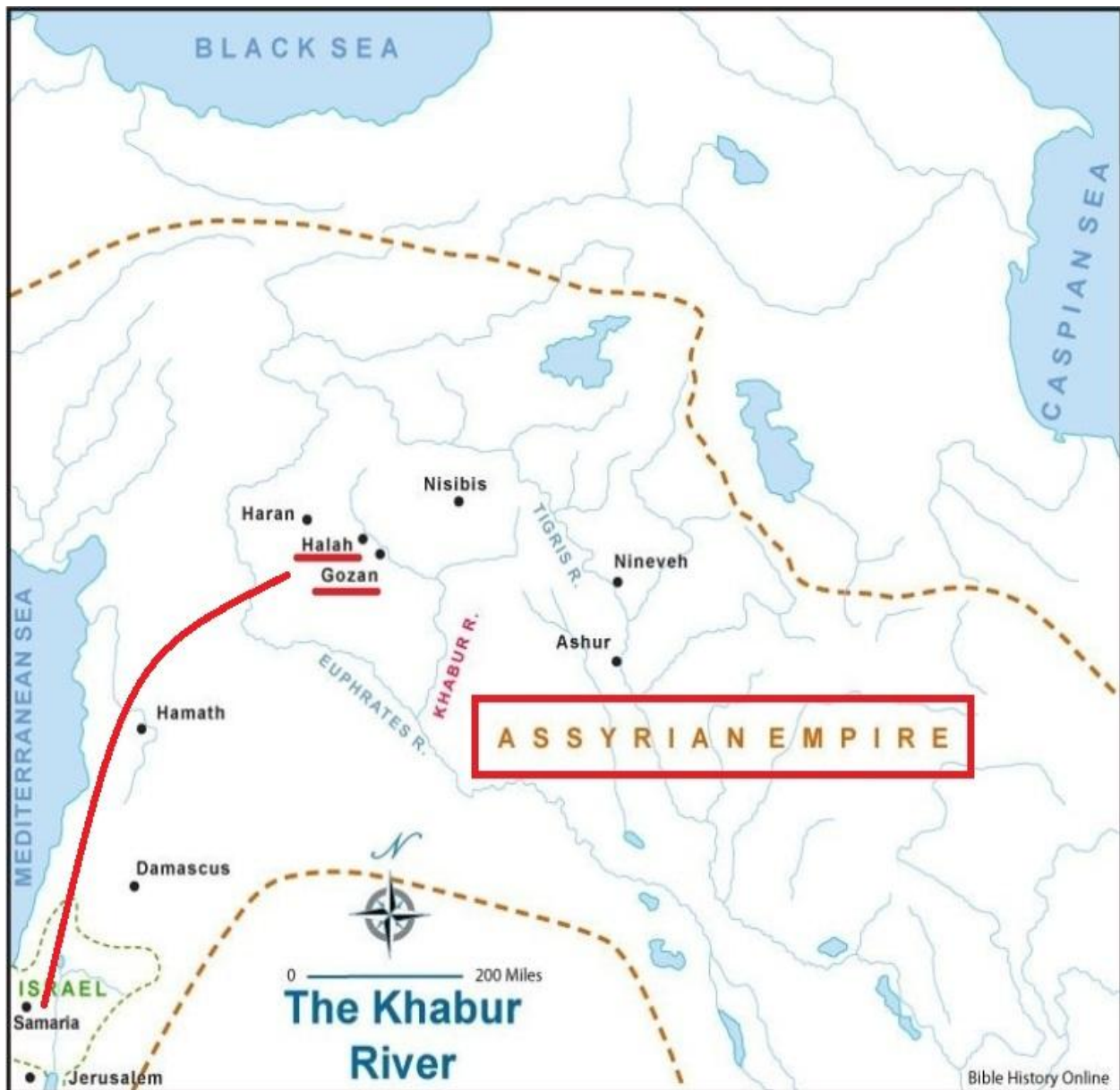
<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.48.html>

⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and led *the people of Israel into exile to Assyria*, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

This is the end of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (722 BC).

Assyria scattered the captives among the provinces so they would mingle with the local populations and lose their identity. This was possible because the people had forsaken the God of Israel many years ago.

See Map 1720



Verses 7 - 18

⁷ Now *this* came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods. ⁸ They also followed the customs of the nations whom the Lord had driven out from the sons of Israel, and *in the customs* of the kings of Israel which they had introduced. ⁹ And the sons of Israel did things secretly against the Lord their God which were not right. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. ¹⁰ And they set up for themselves memorial stones and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, ¹¹ and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations *did* that the Lord had taken into exile before them; and they did evil things, provoking the Lord. ¹² They served idols, concerning which the Lord had said to them, “You shall not do this thing.” ¹³ Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets *and* every seer, saying, “Turn back from your evil ways and keep My commandments *and* My statutes in accordance with all the Law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets.” ¹⁴ However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God. ¹⁵ They rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings which He gave them. And they followed idols and became empty, and followed the nations that surrounded them, *about* which the Lord had commanded them not to do as they *did*. ¹⁶ And they abandoned all the commandments of the Lord their God and made for themselves cast metal images: two calves. And they made an Asherah, and worshiped all the heavenly lights, and served Baal. ¹⁷ Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and they practiced divination and interpreting omens, and gave themselves over to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him. ¹⁸ So the Lord was very angry with Israel, and He removed them from His sight; no one was left except the tribe of Judah.

⁷ Now *this* came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods.

Israel started down the wrong path by breaking the first commandment.

See Exodus 20:3

³ “You shall have no other gods before Me.

¹² They served idols, concerning which the Lord had said to them, “You shall not do this thing.”

Israel broke the second commandment.

See Exodus 20:

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, inflicting the punishment of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing favor to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

¹⁶ And they abandoned all the commandments of the Lord their God and made for themselves cast metal images: two calves. And they made an Asherah, and worshiped all the heavenly lights, and served Baal.

They broke the other 8 commandments.

See Exodus 20:7- 17

⁷ “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be prolonged on the land which the Lord your God gives you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male slave, or his female slave, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

¹⁸ So the Lord was very angry with Israel, and He removed them from His sight; no one was left except the tribe of Judah.

A covenant can exist only if both parties are willing to keep it. The Lord kept His part of the agreement but Israel refused to keep theirs.

Verses 19 - 20

¹⁹ Judah did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God either, but they followed the customs which Israel had introduced. ²⁰ So the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and handed them over to plunderers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

¹⁹ Judah did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God either, but they followed the customs which Israel had introduced.

The Southern Kingdom will last another 136 years but they will meet the same fate.

²⁰ So the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and handed them over to plunderers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

The North fell to the Assyrians and The South will fall to the Babylonians.

Verses 21 - 23

²¹ When He had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel away from following the Lord and misled them into a great sin. ²² And the sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he committed; they did not desist from them ²³ until the Lord removed Israel from His sight, just as He had spoken through all His servants the prophets. So Israel went into exile from their land to Assyria until this day.

The worship of the Golden Caves was a turning point for the North. This took place right after the reign of Solomon ended. Unfortunately, none of the Northern kings had the courage to undo this national sin.

Israel went into captivity because they had rejected God. God could have kept them safe from the greatest world powers if they had remained faithful to Him.

Verse 24 - 28

²⁴ Then the king of Assyria brought *people* from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and settled *them* in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities. ²⁵ And at the beginning of their living there, they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them that were killing some of them. ²⁶ So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, “The nations whom you have taken into exile and settled in the cities of Samaria do not know the custom of the God of the land; so He has sent lions among them, and behold, they are killing them because they do not know the custom of the God of the land.” ²⁷ Then the king of Assyria issued commands, saying, “Take one of the priests there whom you led into exile, and have him go and live there; and have him teach them the custom of the God of the land.” ²⁸ So one of the priests whom they had led into exile from Samaria came and lived in Bethel, and taught them how they were to fear the Lord.

²⁴ Then the king of Assyria brought *people* from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and settled *them* in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.

See Map 1725



After the massive deportation of Northern Israel to Assyria various groups of people were brought from Babylon to re-populate the land of Northern Israel. However, a lot more people were deported than brought in.

25 And at the beginning of their living there, they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them that were killing some of them.

A pagan population was brought in from Babylon and therefore they had no knowledge of the only true God. Even though this people were not under the Law, like the Jews that had been expelled, God still expected them to learn of Him.

26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, “The nations whom you have taken into exile and settled in the cities of Samaria do not know the custom of the God of the land; so He has sent lions among them, and behold, they are killing them because they do not know the custom of the God of the land.”

Other captives of Assyria, the Babylonians, were settled in Samaria but they were being attacked by lions. Interestingly the people did not attribute the lion attacks to a decreased population but understood that it was coming from the God of that area.

27 Then the king of Assyria issued commands, saying, “Take one of the priests there whom you led into exile, and have him go and live there; and have him teach them the custom of the God of the land.” ²⁸ **So one of the priests whom they had led into exile from Samaria came and lived in Bethel, and taught them how they were to fear the Lord.**

A priest from Northern Israel was not a good choice considering the fact that God had taken Northern Israel into captivity because of their sin. Additionally, the priest came and lived in Bethel which did not bode well for learning the truth. Bethel had been one of the principal seats of calf-worship and it was unlikely that this priest understood the true nature of God and how the people should worship Him.

However, we will learn in the next paragraph that this priest did have some understanding of the Lord because it says that the people “feared the Lord”.

See verse 33

33 They feared the Lord, yet they were serving their own gods in accordance with the custom of the nations from among whom they had been taken into exile.

Verses 29 - 33

²⁹ But every nation was *still* making gods of its own, and they put them in the houses of the high places which the people of Samaria had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived. ³⁰ The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, ³¹ and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites were burning their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. ³² They also feared the Lord and appointed from their entire population priests of the high places, who acted for them in the houses of the high places. ³³ They feared the Lord, yet they were serving their own gods in accordance with the custom of the nations from among whom they had been taken into exile.

²⁹ But every nation was *still* making gods of its own, and they put them in the houses of the high places which the people of Samaria had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived

The various nations of people accommodated the high places that the Samaritan people had used for their own gods.

³⁰ The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, ³¹ and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites were burning their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

These 5 “nations” all had their own gods but they added the God of Israel to their repertoire of gods. However, there may have been a distinction, because in the next verse it says they feared the Lord yet they served their own gods.

³² They also feared the Lord and appointed from their entire population priests of the high places, who acted for them in the houses of the high places. ³³ They feared the Lord, yet they were serving their own gods in accordance with the custom of the nations from among whom they had been taken into exile.

This was the thinking of the nations of the world at this period of time. If you moved to a new area, one would simply add the god of that region to the gods of your native land.

Verses 34 - 40

³⁴ To this day they act in accordance with the earlier customs: they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes, their ordinances, the Law, or the commandments which the Lord commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel. ³⁵ The Lord made a covenant with them and commanded them, saying, “You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them. ³⁶ But the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall bow down, and to Him you shall sacrifice. ³⁷ And the statutes, the ordinances, the Law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall take care to do always; and you shall not fear other gods. ³⁸ The covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. ³⁹ But you shall fear the Lord your God; and He will save you from the hand of all your enemies.” ⁴⁰ However, they did not listen, but they kept acting in accordance with their earlier custom. ⁴¹ So while these nations feared the Lord, they also served their idols; their children likewise and their grandchildren, just as their fathers did, they do to this day.

³⁴ To this day they act in accordance with the earlier customs: they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes, their ordinances, the Law, or the commandments which the Lord commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel.

Here the author shifts back to the Northern Israelites who were not deported. They did not repent of their sin but lived like they did before their fellow Israelites were taken into captivity.

³⁵ The Lord made a covenant with them and commanded them, saying, “You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them. ³⁶ But the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall bow down, and to Him you shall sacrifice. ³⁷ And the statutes, the ordinances, the Law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall take care to do always; and you shall not fear other gods. ³⁸ The covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. ³⁹ But you shall fear the Lord your God; and He will save you from the hand of all your enemies.”

God had been very specific about His expectations for the Israelites.

41 So while these nations feared the Lord, they also served their idols; their children likewise and their grandchildren, just as their fathers did, they do to this day.

“These nations” refer to the people who had been sent to Israel from Babylon.

Before we leave this chapter and the Northern Kingdom there are two items of interest worth mentioning.

1. The Northern kingdom suffered from never having a “good king”.

See chart 1730

Reigns of the Northern Kings					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
4	Elah	886	885	2	
5	Zimri	885	885	7 days	
6	Omri	885	874	12	
7	Ahab	874	853	22	
8	Ahaziah	853	852	2	
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	852	841	12	
10	Jehu	841	814	28	
11	Jehoahaz	814	798	17	
12	Jehoash (aka Joash)	798	782	16	
13	Jeroboam II	793/782	753	41	11 years
14	Zechariah	753	752	6 months	
15	Shallum	752	752	1 month	
16	Menahem	752	742	10	
17	Pekahiah	742	740	2	
18	Pekah	752	732	20	
19	Hoshea	732	722	9	
			208 years	242 years	
difference of 34 years					

All 19 kings were bad	11 year average
1 King co-reigned	11 years

Example of Co-reign
 2 Chron. 26:21
 Uzziah - Jotham

Compare this with the southern kingdom that had 5 good kings.

See chart 1735

Reigns of the Southern Kings

	King	Good kings	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam		930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)		913	911	3	
3	Asa	Did good & right	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	Like David	873/870	848	25	3 years
5	Jehoram		853/848 ?	841	8	5 years ?
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)		841	841	1	
	Athaliah		841-835	835	6	
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)		835-796	796	40	
8	Amaziah		796-767	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)		791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	Like Uzziah but better	750/740	731	16	10 years
11	Ahaz		743/731	715	16	12 years
12	Hezekiah	Like David	728/715	686	29	13 years
13	Manasseh		696/686	642	55	10 years
14	Amon		642	640	2	
15	Josiah	Like David	640	609	31	
16	Jehoahaz		609	609	3 months	
17	Jehoiakim		609	598	11	
18	Jehoiachin		598	597	3 months	
19	Zedekiah		597	586	11	

344 years **394 years**

5 good kings	28 year average
14 bad kings	14 year average
1 Queen	6 years
7 kings co-reigned	77 years

difference of 50 years

Example of Co-reign

2 Chron. 26:21
Uzziah - Jotham

On average the 5 good kings reigned twice as long as the 14 bad kings. The 5 good kings covered 142 years while the 14 bad kings only reigned for 202 years. This helped the South to maintain a better relationship with the Lord than it might appear if this was not taken into account.

Also there were 3 other kings that were good at the beginning of their reign and then forsook the Lord later in their life. So the South had some additional good years that could be added to the 142 mentioned above.

2. The South had fewer kings that were overthrown.

See charts 1740 & 1745

Northern kings & their successor

	King	A son reigned after him or the king was overthrown	End of one and the beginning of another
1	Jeroboam I	Nadab	1 Kings 15:25
2	Nadab	Overthrown by Baasha	1 Kings 15:27
3	Baasha	Elah	1 Kings 16:6
4	Elah	Overthrown by Zimri	1 Kings 16:10
5	Zimri	Overthrown by Omri	1 Kings 16:17-18
6	Omri	Ahab	1 Kings 16:28
7	Ahab	Ahaziah	1 Kings 22:40
8	Ahaziah	No son	2 Kings 1:17-18
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	Son of Ahab. Overthrown by Jehu	2 Kings 9:24
10	Jehu	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 10:35
11	Jehoahaz	Jehoash (aka Joash)	2 Kings 13:9
12	Jehoash (aka Joash)	Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14:16
13	Jeroboam II	Zechariah	2 Kings 14:29
14	Zechariah	Overthrown by Shallum	2 Kings 15:10
15	Shallum	Overthrown by Menahem	2 Kings 15:14
16	Menahem	Pekahiah	2 Kings 15:22
17	Pekahiah	Overthrown by Pekah	2 Kings 15:25
18	Pekah	Overthrown by Hoshea	2 Kings 15:30
19	Hoshea	Overthrown by king of Assyria	2 Kings 17:4

Southern Kings and their successors

	King	A son reigned after his father except in 4 cases	How the king died	End of one and the beginning of another
1	Rehoboam		Natural Death	1 Kings 14:31
2	Abijah (aka Abijah)		Natural Death	1 Kings 15:8
3	Asa		Natural Death	1 Kings 15:24
4	Jehoshaphat		Natural Death	1 Kings 22:50
5	Jehoram		Natural Death	2 Kings 8:24
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)		Killed by Jehu	2 Kings 9:27-28
NA	Athaliah - Not a king	Wife of Jehoram, daughter of Ahab	Put to death by the army	2 Kings 11:16
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)		Overthrown by his servants	2 Kings 14:1
8	Amaziah		Died from a conspiracy	2 Kings 14:19-21
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)		Natural Death	2 Kings 15:7
10	Jotham		Natural Death	2 Kings 15:38
11	Ahaz		Natural Death	2 Kings 16:20
12	Hezekiah		Natural Death	2 Kings 20:21
13	Manasseh		Natural Death	2 Kings 21:18
14	Amon		Overthrown by his servants	2 Kings 21:26
15	Josiah		Killed by Pharaoh Neco	2 Kings 23:29-30
16	Jehoahaz		Imprisoned by Pharaoh Neco	2 Kings 23:33
17	Jehoiakim	Son of Josiah	Bound & a donkey's burial	2 Chr. 36:6, Jer. 22:19
18	Jehoiachin		Imprisoned by king of Babylon	2 Kings 24:15-17
19	Zedekiah	Son of Josiah & uncle of Jehoiachin	Imprisoned by king of Babylon	2 Kings 25:7
NA	Gedaliah (Governor)	Not a descendant of David	Ishmael & 10 men kill him	2 Kings 25:22

While the Northern kings were often overthrown by an outsider (non-relative), the southern kings were replaced by their son or the son of a previous king that was a descendant of David.

8 of the 19 kings in the North were overthrown by an outsider (non-relative) while only 3 of the southern kings were overthrown in this manner.

Judah did have 4 other occasions when their king was overthrown but these took place by the invasion of a foreign country, not by a leader within the nation of Israel.